

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1, 3-15, and 17-28 are pending, and claims 1, 14, 15, 28, and 29 are rejected by the Office Action mailed February 23, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 15, 17, 24, and 26 are amended by this response, and claims 2, 16, and 29 are canceled without prejudice. The issues in the current Office Action are as follows:

- Claims 1, 14, 15, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US 5,291,560 (hereinafter, *Daugman*) in view of Nichols, ed., ICSA Guide to Cryptography, McGraw-Hill, 1999, at Ch. 22 (hereinafter, *Soutar*).
- Claims 2-13 and 16-27 are objected to.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 2-13 and 16-27 are objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but are otherwise indicated as allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and presents the amended claims wherein claims 2 and 16 are rewritten in independent form.

III. Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Since the amendment rewrites claim 2 in independent form, the amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 2. No new matter is added.

Claim 15 is amended to include the limitations of claim 16. Since the amendment rewrites claim 16 in independent form, the amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 16. No new matter is added.

Claims 3, 10, 12, 17, 24, and 26 are amended to depend from claims 1 and 15, respectively. Claim 17 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added.

IV. Claim Rejections

On pages 2-7, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 14, 15, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Daugman* in view of *Soutar*. Claim 29 is canceled. Because of the claim amendments and cancellations, the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 14, 15, 28, and 29 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200301992-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV568254302US, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Date of Deposit: May 16, 2006

Typed Name: Donna Forbit

Signature: Donna Forbit

By R. Ross Viguet
R. Ross Viguet
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No.: 42,203

Date: May 16, 2006

Telephone No. (214) 855-8185